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Rush, Jacob, 1757-
The Revolutionary War record
of Jacob Rush (2) in 1776-81

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THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD

OF

Jacob Rush (2)

IN

1776—1781

WITH

ANCESTOR and DESCENDANTS

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Genealogy

Genealogical Information

Conrad Rush (1) Married	Jacob Rush (2) Margaret Singler	Peter Rush (3) Hester Voorhees	Margaret Rush (4) Caleb B. Warman
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Sarah Ann Warman (5) Elijah Hanchett Brownell	Elijah Ellsworth Brownell (6) (Dayton, Ohio and Philadelphia, Penna.)
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Compiled by
E. E. BROWNELL, B.E.E.

1947

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

DEDICATED

to

MY BELOVED MOTHER

SARAH ANN (WARMAN) BROWNELL

=====

by

HER DEVOTED SON

ELIJAH ELLSWORTH BROWNELL

NOTES

JACOB RUSH (2) enlisted in June 1776, for 5 months' service in the New Jersey Line, under Captain Nathan Lewis, commanded by General Hurd. He volunteered again, January 3 - 1777, in Captain Dickens Company, of New Jersey Militia, at Black River, Morris County, New Jersey, for 1 month's service, and at the end of this service went out again for 1 month's service as a substitute for his father, Conrad Rush, in Captain William Smith's Company, of New Jersey. He was an Ensign and was mustered at Morristown, New Jersey, in April 1777, for three years' service.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION PAPERS, #R9081, FOR JACOB RUSH

Warren County, New Jersey, 30 August 1832.

JACOB RUSH, a resident of the township of Greenwich, county and state aforesaid, aged 75 years on the 11th January last, declares—

I was born on 11th January 1757, at 9 o'clock at night at Lamington in Somerset County, New Jersey. The only record of my age is in a book of accounts, in my possession, which I copied from my father's family Bible, which he took with him when he moved to the West.

I lived at Black River, now called Chester, in the County of Morris, when I first entered the service, and enlisted for 5 months service in New Jersey line, in the company commanded by Capt. Nathan Lewis, and called the Flying Camp, commanded by Gen. Hurd.

I enlisted in the month of June 1776, marched first to Morristown and was reviewed there, then to Powles Hook and crossed the North River to New York. I well recollect being in the City of New York on the 4th of July 1776, that the troops were formed into a hollow square, and made three cheers, with their hats off, when the declaration of independence was proclaimed to us, think there was from 10000 to 15000 troops assembled.

We marched to Long Island and quartered for a few days, then we marched down to Flat Bush where we had a battle with the British, I was slightly wounded in the engagement, with a musket ball in my head, the scar of which is still in front part of my head, but it did not prevent my continuing in the Service more than two hours. I recollect the blood running down my side to my feet, Col. Martin was also wounded at the same time in the shoulder with a musket ball. I was intimately acquainted with Col. Martin, and when he was wounded he begged me for God's sake not to desert him, and I stuck to him until the battle was over.

After the battle we returned to New York, whence we marched to Fort Washington, thence to White Plains where we had another battle with the British. We compelled the British to retreat and killed a great many of them, but don't know how many, and sent word next day for them to come and bury their dead. We had 14 killed, but only one, Col. Johnson, killed on the ground. We had the advantage being on high ground, and the wind drove the smoke from us towards them, and we passed over the dead and wounded as they retreated.

Then we marched to Tarry Town, thence to King's ferry, where we crossed the North river, and marched down the river to Fort Lee to reinforce Fort Washington, but found it had been taken before we arrived. We then marched to Newark, Elizabethtown, Woodbridge, New Brunswick and Six mile creek, where our 5 months term expired, and we returned home, but had no discharge given us in writing, this was about 3 weeks before Christmas 1776.

I was at home but 2 or 3 weeks when I volunteered about 3rd Jan. 1777 in Capt. Dickens Company of New Jersey Militia, at Black River, and went to Woodbridge and Elizabeth town, for 1 month, returned home at end of month and immediately went out for 1 month more in place of my father, Conrad Rush, in Capt. William Smith's company of New Jersey Militia, and went to the same places.

On my return home, William Smith, Elisha Drake and myself, agreed to enlist a company for 3 years service, we communicated the same to Gov. Livingston, who sent us word that we must enlist between 45 and 50, when we should have our commissions. We accordingly went on, enlisted 45 men, when we received our commissions, William Smith a captain, Elisha Drake a Lieutenant, and myself an Ensign. We continued until we enlisted 72 men.

We mustered at Morristown about the middle of April 1777, and was reviewed there by the higher officers, but do not recollect their names. Our company were all young men, none over 25 years old—we marched to Elizabeth town, thence to Piscataway, thence to Bottle-hill and continued in that neighborhood the chief part of the Season, and engaged chiefly as a scouting party and ready, at all times to do what service was required of us—we wintered between Bottle-hill and Woodbridge. In Spring of the next year, 1778, in latter part of March or first of April, we marched to Newark, laid there until after the harvest, when we went back to Woodbridge and to Bottle-hill, where we went on a scout and I was taken prisoner by British troops, after I had been out in the 3 years service, 1 year & 7 months.

I was taken to the British camp below Bottle-hill and was confined in the guard house about 2 months and 17 days. The next morning after I was taken prisoner they searched me, took away my commission and other papers burnt them, this was late in the fall of 1778. I then escaped from the British and brought with me a good musket and other accutraments, and joined the army near Bound-brook, and was brought to the commanding officer, but dont recollect the names. The Colonel and Major and Brigadier General (whose names I do not recollect) went with me to General Washington's quarters in a valley near Bound-brook, where I was examined, and General Washington gave me a discharge in writing during the war.

I then returned home, and after continuing there 2 weeks, went back to Bound-brook and served as a volunteer in a militia company commanded by Capt. George Strout. I again saw General Washington who blamed and scolded me very much for exposing myself again, and said I should certainly be massacred if they caught me again. I staid a month in that service—and went home again. After stopping home a short time, I then went out for 9 months in succession, doing monthly duty in the Militia of New Jersey as a Volunteer, under the commands of Captains Thomas Dickerson, Jacob Beard, George Sager, Benjamin Horton, Nathaniel Horton and Aaron Starkes.

After this service I was married, 21st May 1780, after which in the month of June, went out one month in the Militia of New Jersey under the command of Capt. Adam Hope, to Elizabeth town, and the next month staid at home, and in the month of August went out again under Capt. Jacob Gearhust to Morristown, Springfield & Rockaway. While out this time we had a skirmish below Morristown, and had 3 or 4 wounded.

That the discharge which I had was the only documentary evidence I ever had, and which my father took with him to the West, and which I have never been able to go after, nor to obtain in any other way, and since his death I have known nothing of his papers.

I have been compelled to take the benefit of the Insolvency Law of New Jersey to preserve myself from Imprisonment for debt.

JACOB RUSH.

Declaration of John Cole and William P. Robinson, both of Oxford, neighbors of Jacob Rush, believe him to be 75 years of age, that he is reputed and believe, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier in the Revolution.

Warren County, New Jersey, 28 September 1833.

Jacob Rush maketh this additional declaration—

That since he made the original declaration before said, he has been trying to recollect circumstances, dates, names of officers of the service, and is now perfectly satisfied that he made several mistakes, which he can now rectify from pursuing his services in regular order—that he has frequently lain awake the whole night tracing over the circumstances and situations of himself and comrades during that trying time, and they seem more perfectly fresh again upon his memory.

My first Service was in what was called The Flying Camp. I enlisted for 5 months at Chester, or what was then called Black River, in County of Morris, New Jersey, as a private under Capt. Nathan Luse, 1st Lieut. William Corwin, 2nd Lieut. George Hager, Ensign Victor King, and the other officers were Col. Ephraim Martin, Lieut. Col. Munson, Quarter-master ——— Sprowles, John Sapper Sargeant Major, Joseph King Adjutant, and General Sterling. We marched from Chester on the 1st of July 1776 to Morristown, and were there reviewed, each soldier received a bounty of eight dollars. Same day marched on through different places, crossed at Panles Hook and arrived in New York on the 3rd, which I distinctly recollect from its being the day before Independence was proclaimed. I have already stated about the troops being drawn up in a hollow square and hurraing after the declaration was read. We continued in the city and on Long Island until the battle of Flat Bush, which I think was in the latter part of August, I know it was after harvest time. In the battle Col. Martin was wounded, with a musket ball in shoulder, & I was also wounded with one, being a glancing shot on side of my head. The ball made two holes in my hat and took the skin and flesh off the side of my head to the bone, and left a mark which is still plainly perceptible. I bled so much and got so weak as hardly to be able to walk. We consideres that Lord Sterling was a little treacherous and were glad that he was taken prisoner. After the battle we returned to New York and laid there for some time. We than marched up to Fort Washington and laid there some time, during which the Jersey Blues & Riflemen and 12 of our flying Camp, of which I was one, had a little squable with the enemy, they had landed a few of their troops to plague us. Then we marched to White Plains where we had a battle with the enemy, this was in the fall of the year, which I recollect from the farmers being engaged in husking corn.

We then marched to Tarrytown, near the river, & encampt on the high ground near the town. There we had orders & marched to King's ferry, crossed there one night, then had orders to hurry down to Fort Lee, which we did to reinforce Fort Washington, but when we arrived it was too late. We then, after some time, marched to Newark, Elizabeth-town, Woodbridge, New Brunswick & Six Mile river, in New Jersey, where our time being up, we were discharged 3 Dec. 1776, being 5 months from the time were were received at New York, and I arrived home in Morris County on the 5th, which I distinctly recollect.

I had not been home a month when the militia of the county was all classed into two classes. This was in January, 1777, which I recollect from its being very soon after the Hollow-days.

I volunteered, despising the idea of being compelled to go, and having been delighted with a soldiers life in the 5 months service. I went out 1 month as a private under Capt. Stark. We laid with the whole brigade among the farms back of Woodbridge, towards New Brunswick. During the month we took 800 cattle and sheep from the British, who had kept them under a guard of 12 men at Woodbridge. We

fired on the guard and they left them, then we drove them back in the country. It was advertized for all that had had them stolen to come in and take their own, which was done, and the rest chiefly sold and consumed by the soldiers, and disposed of for their benefit. I recall that we had a good deal of snow.

I was at home but 5 days when I went a month more as substitute for my father, Conrad Rush, under Capt. Smith. We joined Col. Seeleys Regt. at Elizabeth-town, and was all the month at or about that place. We had one alarm during the month, the British came over and fired at us, but none killed. I got home in March I recollect it was very sloppy and muddy.

I continued at home until the 1st of May, when there was another call of half the militia, and I volunteered and was out 1 month as a private in Capt. Jones Company. We laid at Woodbridge and part of the time at Elizabeth-town. During the month we were over on the island and had a little brush with the British who attacked our rearguard on the way home. No one killed and I returned home in June.

I continued at home until we got our harvest in and had commenced at the hay in bottom meadows, about the first part of August 1777, when I volunteered again upon a call of half the Militia, and was out 1 month again as a private under Capt. Dickerson, and was at Elizabeth-town about half the time, and the remainder of the month at Woodbridge and Boundbrook, and that neighborhood.

When our month was up I sent word to my father that if he would bring me some clothes down, I'd stay in his place the next month, which he was glad to do, and I was equally pleased to stay. I had now got so delighted with a soldiers life, and loved my country so well, that I had come to the conclusion that I had rather any time fight for my country than eat. I staid the month out and returned home early in October, before husking time came.

My next term was for 1 month as a private under Capt. Smith. We marched to New Windsor in New York, and returned the last of November. I recollect the weather being middling cold. While there a British man of war went by, fired upon us and we upon them, while out we heard of the battle of Germantown.

I staid at home until just after the Holler-days, in January 1778, when I again volunteered as a private and served 1 month under Capt. Sowers. We went to Bottle Hill and laid the whole month there and in that neighborhood.

Upon my return home in February 1778, William Smith, Elisha Drake and myself made it up that we had rather fight for our country all the time, rather than be off and on so often, and we wrote to Gov. Livingston that if hed send Smith a commission as Captain, Drake as Lieutenant, and myself as Ensign, that we would enlist a full company, and serve for three years. He wrote back for us to go on and enlist 45 or 50 men, and he would send us the commissions. We immediately commenced, had ——— Plains in Morris County as our place of Rendervous, and soon enlisted the required complement, wrote to the Governor informing him that we had enlisted the men for 3 years, if we all lived, for guard and sentry duty and scouting partys, & called Rangers, but if either of us died the men were to be at liberty to return or continue, as they pleased. We got our commissions by return of mail as Rangers, Smith as Captain, Drake as Lieut. and my self Ensign. We went on and by the 20th March 1778, we had 72 men enlisted. We marched to Morristown and thence to army near Elizabeth-town, to Gen. Dickens & Gen. Hurd, who cammanded the militia at that place. I handed them the liat of men and names of officers, and stated how we had enlisted the men and how our commissions run, and that we had now com to place ourselved under their command. They approved of us and professed themselves well pleased with us. General Washington also afterwards fully approved of us as Rangers, and we continued busily engaged, going out night after night, on scouting parties. I recollect distinctly we were at Springfield when we heard of the battle of Monmouth in June. We were at Bottle Hill about the 1st of April, which I recollect from them

just beginning to plow for oats & flax, and were there at Springfield until after June. Several times we were close to the enemys lines and they fired on us and we on them. On one occasion one of our men and 2 of theirs were killed. We continued in that same district of country, moving about continually until the month of September, when we marched to Newark. We were in Newark and in that vicinity about a month. We then marched back and were at and about Elizabeth-town until the last of November. While there we had a little scratch with the British, a good deal of powder but not much loss of life on either side. One of our men was wounded and several of the British. They was layin at night, when no moon, along the fence on the road from Elizabeth-town to Morristown, in ambush. Our company got close by them when one of their men coughed, they immediately raised and fired, but understanding their manuver, we fell as they raised—they shot over us, we than routed them. About the 1st of December we marched to Bottle Hill and staid there under command of Gen. Wines, whose quartermaster drew provisions for us until January 1779. While there we had several little skirmishers with foraging parties. Towards the last of January our company went to Woodbridge, thence to Amboy, or rather the neighborhood of it. The British drove us from it and we returned to Woodbridge, and there joined Gen. Wines again, thence to Bottle Hill, thence to Springfield and so backwards and forwards, having frequently little scratches with the enemy during the whole Summer season. We were truly Rangers, for we were continually ranging about where ever our services were wanted. In September we were at Springfield where our Captain took sick and died. The Lieut. immediately told the men that the Captain had enlisted that they were at liberty to go home, or stay with us. But they, all except seven, preferred staying and did stay with us.

A short time afterwards, towards latter part of October, and when we had been out exactly 1 year & 7 months from the time we had reported ourselves to Gen. Dickerson and Hurd, we were out on a scout one night when I was taken prisoner. We had got close to the enemy on a dark night before we saw or heard them, and when we turned to escape, I caught my foot in a root & fell down, where they caught me. They kept me in close confinement about 6 weeks and almost starved me to death, destroyed my commission and discharge from the 5 months service, and all my other papers, and often made offers to enlist me, which I refused. At last, seeing no prospect of escaping while confined, I agreed to enlist, and when they come to swear me, I swore to be true to them as long as I served. I continued with them 2 months and 17 days from near to Hollawdaus when I enlisted, continued to regain strength and performed some duty. Tried to get into favor as much as possible. I went with them every where, they at last trusted me on guard. I knew the country well where we were, having often travelled it by night and day. They were then between Bottle Hill and Elizabeth-town. As soon as it was a little dark I determined to leave them and watched my oppotunity. I got about 50 steps from my station, looked back and could see no one, and I gave them leg and went in earnest, carrying musket, cartouch box, etc. all with me.

When I got to our Sentinels they haulted me and I gave myself up as a prisoner, was kept all night and next morning was taken to Gen. Dickeson and Hurd, who both recollected me. To them I told the whole history and they fully applauded me. I never shall forget Gen. Dickeson slapping me on the shoulder and saying he always took me for a soldier, now he was sure of it. The two Generals marched me off to General Washington, who drew his chair close to me and examined me very closely. I recollect his asking me how I got over the swearing, and when I told him he said every one would not have thought so far. He then said I must go home and never come out again, that if they caught me again they would massacre me. I was anxious to stay with the army but they would not hear of it. They then made me out a discharge during the war and gave me a pass, and I started home. It was the latter part of March when I got home, I know it from the farmers just beginning to plow for oats and flax.

When I had been home two weeks or thereabouts, my desire to get back to the camp was so great that I could neither sleep or rest. I recollect telling my mother, in answer to her objecting to my return, that the British had no bullet with my name on it, and I really thought so. I could not stay away and so started and came to the army near Woodbridge, I found Gen. Washington & Gen. Dickeson & other officers there—this was in April 1780, before corn planting time. They all again tried to persuade me from service, but I was determined I would not leave the service, so they took me into service and set me to work to take care of the officers horses, which I did for one month, and then returned home and got some clothes, and set off again for the army. I recollect this was early in May, I saw them planting corn when I went down. I joined the army between Woodbridge and Bottle Hill. Gen. Dickeson scolded me like fire and said I was certain to be massacred if taken prisoner.

I served one month as a private in the New Jersey Militia under Capt. Jones, we were the whole month at Elizabeth-town and Woodbridge, and about those palces. Before I went this tour, my father seeing I was determined to be a soldier, made a bargain with me, so that if I would serve his tour of duty that season, every other month, hed find me in clothes and I should have all the pay. This I most cheerfully agreed to. At end of this month my father's turn came, and under our agreement I staid for him, under Capt. Dickerson & Col. Johnson. I was at Elizabeth-town, Newark and Amboy—this must have been the month of June, for I recollect as soon as it was up I volunteered again as my own account, sent up to my father for clothes, and during this month we celebrated the declaration of independence.

(Then several months of service for himself and father, Then) returned home about New Years, very clod weather and plenty of snow on the ground.

I continued at home all the remainder of the winter, and the next spring my father removed to Bethlehem, in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. We had just got moved in April 1781, when we were classed in the Militia, and I volunteered and served 1 month as a private under Capt. William Bassett. We started early in May just as they were trying to plant corn, we marched to Boundbrook, thence to Woodbridge, and a little time at ———, where our time expired and I returned home.

Since my original declaration I have been to the neighborhood of my former comrades and can find none of them living, nor as I believe there is one survivor.

JACOB RUSH.

Declaration of John Kinney, Jun. Esquire of Warren Co. aged 60 years and upwards, who swears that he has been acquainted with Jacob Rush for the space of 35 years past, and has been doing business with Rush as a customer in deponents store during that time. That said Rush was at one time in middling circumstances of life, but is now very poor, and dependant on his children for support, who are also in very moderate circumstances.

Declaration of Rev. Isaac Newton Conda, Minister of the Oxford Presbeterian Church ——— that he is well acquainted with Jacob Rush and has frequently presided at the Congregation at Scotts Mountain, of which said Rush is a member.

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